(a) whether Government have formulated a pension scheme for marine fishermen;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating whether the scheme would be contributory; annd

(c) if so, by when the scheme will come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR):(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Closing of Film makinng Unit of Agriculture Ministry

1094. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to close the Film making Unit of the Ministry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry is getting the agriculture based films through private film makers spending eight times more than the films made by its Unit; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for closing down the Film Unit and to incur more expenditure in production of films?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A panel or private film makers has been framed for getting the agriculture based films produced through private film makers. It is not true that the cost of production of instructional, agricultural film through private film makers is eight times more than the films made by the Film Unit of this Ministry, presently working under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(c) Based on the best expertise available in the market and its cost effectiveness the Govt. have taken a decision to get the films produced through private film producers.

Changes in farm policy

1095. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether drastic changes in the farm policy have been under consideration of Government to match with the industrial and trade reforms as indicated by the Minister of Commerce and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission on 6th September, 1993; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the decision, if any, taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Modified draft Agriculture Policy Resolution which aims at accelerating allround development of agriculture including horticulture, livestock, fisheries and sericulture and creating a positive trade and investment climate for agriculture at par with industry, has been placed in the Parliament on 14th May, 1993.

Hike in the statutory minimum price of sugar-cane

1096. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced a hike in the statutory minimum price of sugar-cane for 1993-94 and 1994-95 seasons; if so to what extent, incidating the existing and revised prices; and

(b) whether the arrears of payments due from mills to the farmers have since

been cleared; if so, the position as on 31st August, 30th September and 31st October, 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) sugarcane for 1993-94 season has been raised to Rs. 34.50 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent, as against the advance announcement of Rs. 32.50 per quintal. This denotes an increase of Rs. 3.50 per quintal over the SMP of Rs. 31.00 per quintal for 1992-93 season. The SMP for 1994-95 season has been announced in advance at Rs. 37.00 per quintal linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent.

(b) The cane price arrears during 1992-93 season which were 17.2 per cent of the total dues as on 31-3-93, got reduced substantially to 3.1 per cent as on 31.7.93 and further reduced to 2.6 per cent on 31.8.93, 1.6 per cent on 30.9.93 and 1.48 per cent as on 31.10.93.

Exploitation of marine fishery resources

1097. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to launch a programme for exploitation of marine fishery resources in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the other proposals undner Government's consideration in the fisheries sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During VIIIth Five Year Plan, the Government have launched/propose to launch the following schemes for the exploitation of marine fishery resources at an estimated plan outlay of Rs. 113 crores:—

(i) To motorise 14.00 traditional fishing craft.

(ii) To introduce 1,000 plywood craft as an alternative traditional timber craft.

(iii) To introduce 200 off-shore pelegic craft made of fibre glass reinforced plastic (FRP) to exploit hitherto under exploited off-shore pelegic fishes.

(iv) To introduce community managed artificial reefs for resources enhancement and for providing livelihood to most vulnerable traditional fishermen communities.

(v) To introduce pilot scale sea farming/mariculture foroysters, mussels, seaweeds, etc.

(vi) Reimbursment of Central Excise Duty on HSD oil used by mechanised fishing vessels to encourage small scale fishing sector.

(vii) To finance procurement of well designed patrol craft by maritime States/UTs for implementation of Marine Fishing Regulations Act (MFRA) which aims to portecting the interests oftraditional fishermen.

(viii) Assistance for participation in deep sea fishing and processing.

(ix) Providing interest subsidy on loan for acquiring deep sea fishing vessels.

(x) Assistance for diversified fishing for non-shrimp resources.

(c) Other important schemes which have been implemented for the development of fisheries in the country include:—

(i) World Bank assisted shrimp and fish culture project an estimated cost of Rs. 285 crores;

(ii) Development of fresh and brackish water aquaculture with an outlay of Rs. 85 crores;

(iii) Development of infrastructure facilities for inland fish marketing at an estimated outlay of Rs. 25 crores;

(iv) Creation of infrastructure facilities for landing and berthing of fishing vessels at an outlay of Rs. 106 crores;

(v) Fishermen welfare schemes which include development of model fisher-